

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
THE MACKENZIE HIGHWAY

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THE MACKENZIE HIGHWAY

The all weather Mackenzie Highway, now undergoing accelerated planning and construction, will be one of the major highways of Canada. It will link Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk and the communities of the Mackenzie Valley to the continental highway system. It will end isolation for many. It will open the Delta and the entire region to year-round transportation, reduce the cost of goods and services to individuals, accelerate resource development, facilitate pipeline construction and stimulate tourism.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has already constructed the highway from the Alberta-Northwest Territories' border to Fort Simpson, a distance of 296 miles. There are 635 miles still to be completed.

Since the announcement of an immediate start on the completion of the highway by the Prime Minister on April 28, 1972, a Mackenzie Highway Subcommittee, which will report to the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Northern Roads (A.C.N.D.), has already been formed. The Subcommittee has already discussed with the pipeline consortia the routing of the highway out of Fort Simpson.

It is looking into the environmental aspects of highway construction using the results of the research already done by industry and the federal government in relation to northern pipelines. It is also paying particular attention to the hiring of northern residents for the project.

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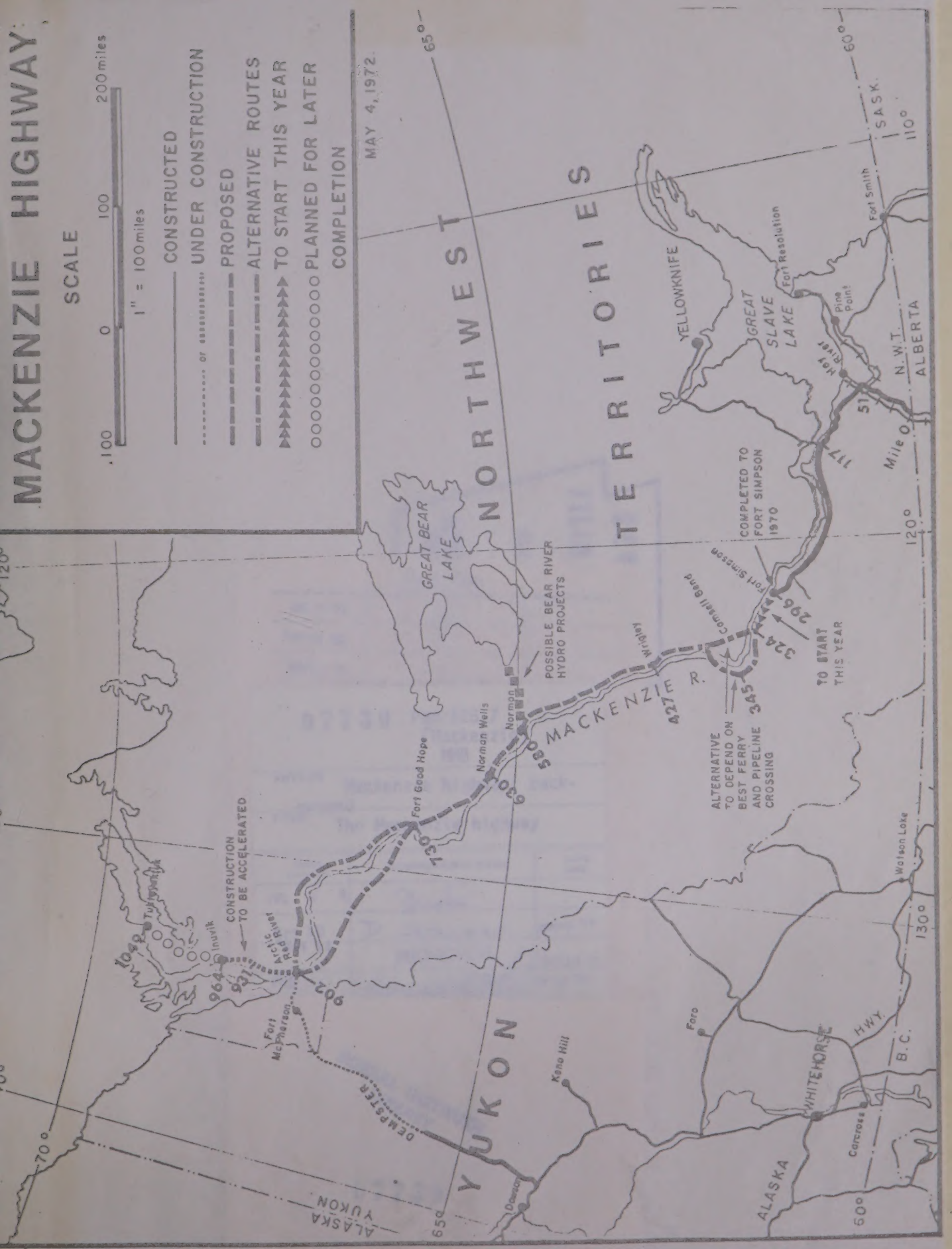
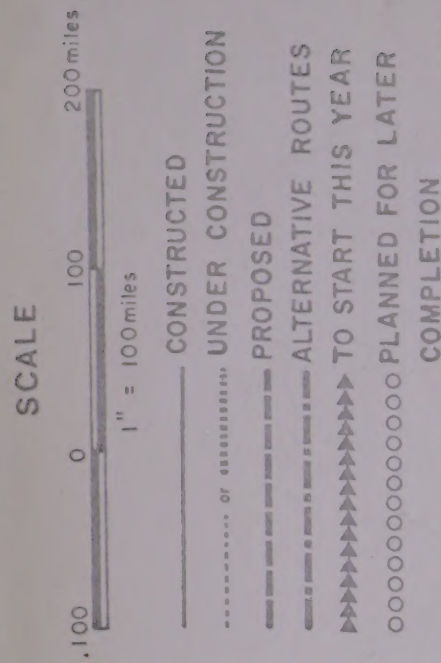
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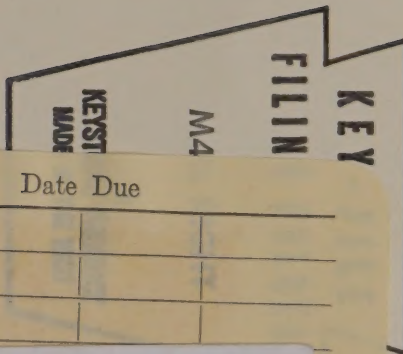
Total cost of the highway to Inuvik has been estimated at between \$70 and \$100 millions, of which \$10.5 million will come from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's current budget. The Steering Group on the Travacon Study, which had been established under the Transportation Sub-Committee of the A.C.N.D., will study the scheduling and financing of the highway and related northern roads and transportation projects.

The Mackenzie Highway forms part of the northern roads network included in the Territorial Roads Policy approved by the government in 1965. It connects with Alberta Provincial Highway Route 35, and will run 964 miles from the Alberta - Northwest Territories border to Inuvik.

At the southern end of the highway in N.W.T. 296 miles have been completed while, in the north, 33 miles from Inuvik to Fort McPherson are under construction on a three-year contract. This construction is being accelerated under the revised program.

An assessment of material resources available, such as gravel, on the highway route will be made this year. Detail designs will be completed and field surveys conducted in 1972 for those sections scheduled for construction in 1973/74





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